

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Inventor(s): Herman Philip Godfried
U.S. Serial No.: (Not Yet Assigned)
U.S. Filing Date: (Herewith)
Priority Claim: 99/4910
Priority Date: July 30, 1999
Title of Invention: A CUTTING BLADE FOR A SURGICAL
INSTRUMENT
Attorney Docket No.: 42377-00012

Box DO/EO/US
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Madam or Sir:

<p>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL</p> <p>"EXPRESS MAIL" Mailing Label No.: EL749039156US Date of Deposit: January <u>23</u>, 2002</p> <p>I hereby certify that this paper, including the documents referred to therein, or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:</p> <p>Box DO/EO/US Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231</p> <p>Type or Print Name: <u>Cheryl I. Gibson</u> Signature: <u>Cheryl Gibson</u></p>

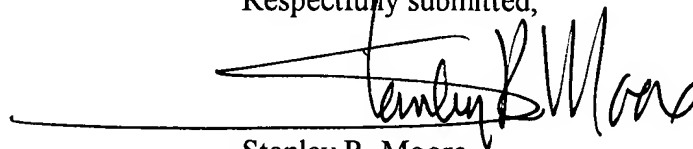
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with Applicant's duty under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 1.97, Applicant hereby submits the attached form PTO-1449, (modified) which lists art cited. The art listed therein, while of some relevance, is not necessarily considered to teach or suggest any aspect of the invention described and claimed in the above-identified patent application. This statement is also not to be construed as a representation that a search has, or has not, been conducted or that no better art exists. Rather, this statement discloses only the best art of which Applicant is aware.

In considering the art set forth below, it may be noted by the Examiner that certain references may contain markings, underlinings or other notations. These markings or notations are not to be construed as drawing the Examiner's attention either to selected parts or away from other parts of the references. Any such markings were either present on the copies of the references obtained by Applicant, or were made thereon during the study of the references by the Applicant and/or Applicant's Attorneys.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider each of the cited references, indicate such consideration by initialing each reference on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) and return a copy of the same with the next communication to the Applicant. For the convenience of the Examiner in considering the references, copies of the cited references are enclosed with this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stanley R. Moore", is written over a horizontal line.

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Form PTO-1449 Modified List of Patents and Publications Cited by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary) U.S. Patent Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office				Docket No.: 42377-00012		Serial No.: 048131 (Not Yet Assigned)	
				Applicants: Herman Philip Godfried			
				Filing Date: (Herewith)		Group: Not Yet Known	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initial	Cite Code	Document No.	Date	Name	Class	Subclass
	A1	3,786,814	Jan. 22, 1974	Armao	128	303.1
	A2	4,622,966	Nov. 18, 1986	Beard	128	303.14
	A3	4,697,489	Oct. 6, 1987	Kim	83	856
	A4	5,376,099	Dec. 27, 1994	Ellis et al.	606	166
	A5	5,480,398	Jan. 2, 1996	Eggers	606	29

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initial	Cite Code	Document No.	Date	Country	Translation	
					Yes	No
	B1	GB 2 060 397 A	May 7, 1981	United Kingdom		(English)
	B2	JP 08236517 A	Sept. 13, 1996	Japan	(Abstract)	
	B3	JP 09246264	Sept. 19, 1997	Japan	(Abstract)	
	B4	WO 98 21747 A	May 22, 1998	PCT	(Abstract only)	X

OTHER DOCUMENTS		
Examiner Initial	Cite Code	Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.
	C1	
	C2	

EXAMINER:	DATE CONSIDERED
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